

UNCLASSIFIED 12/14/17  
Department of State  
3552

INCOMING  
TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 AID-05 COM-04 EB-08 FRB-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3519

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 10212

E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR  
SUBJ: PRESIDENT VIDELA'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. YESTERDAY DECEMBER 13 PRESIDENT VIDELA HELD AN EIGHTY MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE DISCUSSED NUMEROUS TOPICS, INCLUDING THE POLITICAL PLAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. DOMESTIC POLITICS

A. THE POLITICAL PLAN

VIDELA, WHEN QUESTIONED ON THE POLITICAL PLAN (DUE TO BE RELEASED ON DECEMBER 19), STATED THAT SOME WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THAT IT DOES NOT MENTION ELECTIONS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ARGENTINA WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE STEPS TOWARDS DEMOCRATIZATION IN WHICH BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY WOULD TAKE PART. ACCORDING TO VIDELA THERE WOULD BE NO CIVILIAN-MILITARY PACT; INSTEAD THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SECTORS WOULD BE "COINCIDING IN A COMMON OBJECTIVE." EVEN THOUGH HE STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO ENCOURAGE ALL SECTORS OF THE POPULATION TO PARTICIPATE (EXCLUDING EXTREMISTS), HE WAS VAGUE AS TO WHAT FORM THIS PARTICIPATION WOULD TAKE. AT ANOTHER POINT HE SAID THAT "JUST TO BE AN ARGENTINE" CONSTITUTES PARTICIPATION.

B. LABOR

VIDELA STATED THAT OPPOSITION TO THE NEW LABOR LAW BY A LABOR ORGANIZATION "A NATIONAL LABOR ENTITY" -- VIDELA AVOIDED REFERRING TO THE C.U.T.A. BY NAME) WAS A PURELY POLITICAL ACT, AND THAT THEY DID NOT REPRESENT THE FEELINGS OF THE COMMON WORKER.

C. THE ECONOMY

"MORE OF THE SAME," VIDELA INDICATED. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OF PLANS FOR PERSONALITIES.

D. PRESIDENTIAL MANDATE

VIDELA TOLD REPORTERS THAT UNLESS HE FELT HE SHOULD STEP DOWN FOR PERSONAL REASON, OR UNLESS "THOSE WHO GAVE HIM THE MANDATE" DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD STEP DOWN, HE SAW NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD NOT REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL 1981.

E. MRS. PERON

VIDELA DENIED A RECENT SPATE OF PRESS STORIES SUGGESTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN WINNING MRS. PERON'S RELEASE TO TRAVEL THERE.

IN REGARD TO THE PERONIST PARTY, VIDELA SAID, BEFORE IT CAN SURVIVE IN A DEMOCRACY IT HAS TO CEASE BEING A DEMAGOGIC PARTY AND BECOME A DEMOCRATIC ONE.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS

A. THE POPE'S COMMENTS ON DISAPPEAREDS

THE COMMENTS MADE BY POPE JOHN PAUL II IN LATE OCTOBER CONCERNING DISAPPEAREDS, WERE NOT -- ACCORDING TO VIDELA -- DIRECTED AT ARGENTINA BUT TO ALL COUNTRIES. THEY CONSTITUTE A PLEA FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HUMAN DIGNITY. AT ANOTHER POINT OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE

VIDELA SAID WITH REGARD TO THE RECENT PAST THAT "ARGENTINA HAS NOTHING TO HIDE AND NOTHING OF WHICH TO REPENT." HE DEFENDED THE GOVERNMENT'S LAW OF PRESUMPTIVE DEATH AND ADDED THAT "TIME MUST DO ITS WORK -- UNDERSTANDING IS THE DAUGHTER OF TIME."

B. DISAPPEAREDS

VIDELA SAID THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE FOR THE DISAPPEAREDS, BECAUSE THEY ARE "NOT ENTITIES." THEY ARE "NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE." ("IF THE DISAPPEARED WERE TO REAPPEAR HE WOULD RECEIVE TREATMENT 'X', BUT IF THE DISAPPEARANCE WERE A CERTAINTY - HIS DEATH WOULD RECEIVE ANOTHER TREATMENT. DURING THE TIME ONE IS DISAPPEARED HIS CASE CANNOT RECEIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE HE IS A NON-ENTITY (NEITHER DEAD OR ALIVE.) AS FOR THOSE UNDER ARREST EACH CASE HAS TO BE STUDIED AND -- DEPENDING ON THE FINDINGS -- THE OPTIONS ARE THEN THROUGH RESTRICTED FREEDOM AND CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT."

3. TERRORISM

VIDELA STATED THAT DESPITE THE RECENT FLURRY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY THE MILITARY HAS BASICALLY BEEN VICTORIOUS, BUT MUST REMAIN ALERT SINCE THERE COULD BE RECURRENCE OF TERRORIST ACTS OF AN IDEOLOGICAL OR MILITARY NATURE.

4. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

VIDELA REFUTED THOSE WHO FELT ARGENTINA HAS NO REAL FOREIGN POLICY BY STATING THAT THE GOA'S GOALS WERE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, AND TO EXPAND RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES (OUTSIDE OF LATIN AMERICA) WITHOUT SACRIFICING IDEOLOGICAL BELIEFS.

CHAPLIN

VIDELA

DISAPPEARANCE

PEN

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)  
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS  
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny  
Exemption(s):  
Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full  
( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

OFF Argentine  
BRIEF - AIFED -  
Need Peron  
Spanish -  
General - feel -

THE POPE'S REMARKS

Venezuela and on other countries in a group  
Peru

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